

## **Ways God May Reveal His Will, Part 4 - Acts 21:12-14 – July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

- This is pt 4 of a series titled; "Ways God May Reveal His Will." For the last three weeks we've looked at six ways God shows us His will.
  - I have some good news for you, I won't be re-preaching the previous three parts, and I know that this comes as a great relief to many!
  - It's been said a pastor should stop preaching when his sermon is over. Let me add; he should stop preaching his sermon over and over.
  - That being said, for the previous six ways God may reveal His will, you'll need to get the CD. Today, we'll look at the seventh way.
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- A prophet named Agabus has just dramatically prophesied to the Apostle Paul what will happen to him when he gets to Jerusalem.
  - He takes Paul's belt ties up his own hands and feet saying: "The Holy Spirit says in this way the Jews will bind the owner of this belt."
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- This is where we pick it up now in verse 12, where we see the reaction of those who love Paul and don't want him to go to Jerusalem.
  - They finally surrender to the will of the Lord being done and the Apostle Paul leaving even though he knows he will be put in prison.
  - God will reveal His will to those who are surrendered to Him and His will. However, as we'll see with number seven, it comes with a cost.

### **7. Through a surrendering to the Lord (Verses 12-14)**

12 When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem. 13 Then Paul answered, "Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? **I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.**"

14 When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, "**The Lord's will be done.**"

v12 We're told that after everyone heard this dramatic prophecy from Agabus that they all pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

v13 Paul's response is astonishing, he asks why they're weeping and breaking his heart. He's ready not only to be imprisoned but to die.

v14 They finally acquiesce realizing that Paul would not be dissuaded. I find it interesting that they then say; "The Lord's will be done."

- This would seem to indicate that it was God's will that Paul go to Jerusalem even though he would face imprisonment and hardship.
- That would explain why it is and even how it is that Paul could tell them that he was willing not only to be imprisoned, but to die as well.

**Acts 20:22-24** 22 "And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, **not knowing what will happen to me there.** 23 I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. 24 However, **I consider my life worth nothing to me,** if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.

- Paul had already counted the cost, and made the decision that no matter what happens, he was both submitted and committed for life.
- His life was worth nothing to him because he had already surrendered and relinquished it to the Lord. He was ruined for his Lord Jesus.
- Paul, like Jesus, could say; "not my will but Thy will be done." In other words Lord, I have and will surrender my will to Your will O Lord!

- A number of years ago, I came up with a sort of "dorky" acronym to the word "surrender" as it relates to knowing the will of God.

**S U R R E N D E R** to the "will of God"...and to the call of God, by dying to self as a living sacrifice. (Romans 12:1)

**U**ndo the "enemy of God"...and what's been done in conforming minds to the pattern of this world. (Romans 12:2a)

**R**enew with the "Word of God"...which is how we'll "prove" what God's perfect will is. (Romans 12:2b)

**R**ule by the "Spirit of God"...He's the umpire who makes the call, and keeps the peace. (Colossians 3:15)

**E**ndure as a "servant of God"...in difficult situations we discern His provocations. (2 Timothy 2:3, 4:5)

**N**o "no's" to the "command of God"...if I didn't obey Him last time, He can't show me this time. (Proverbs 11:3, John 14:21)

**D**ecide based on the "wisdom of God"...the wisdom of the world can't be the deciding factor. (James 3:14-18)

**E**ngage in hearing the "voice of God"...I can't if I'm continually busy and preoccupied. (Isaiah 28:23-24 30:19-22)

**R**est in the "peace of God"...He wants you in His will more than even you want to be in His will. (Proverbs 3:5-6)